

FILE: VICTIM.LTR

[DATE]

[VICTIM NAME]
[ADDRESS]

Dear Sir or Madam:

The [INVESTIGATING AGENCY] recently conducted an investigation in the [STATE] area involving the sale of used motor vehicles with altered odometers.

As a result of the investigation, [NUMBER] individuals were convicted of criminal charges based on their roles in a fraudulent scheme to misrepresent the mileage of vehicles to consumers. The presiding judge recently sentenced the defendants in [CASE NAME AND DOCKET NUMBER]. The judge found that at least [TOTAL NUMBER OF CARS] vehicles had been subjected to odometer tampering as a result of the criminal course of conduct.

After sentencing, the government notified the court of its intention to notify victims of the crime and to provide supporting documentation pursuant to its obligations under the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990. Upon motion by the government, the judge entered an order giving approval of the disclosure of information and documents gathered during the course of the investigation.

Accordingly, you are hereby notified that you may have been a victim of odometer fraud. Documents gathered by the government indicated that you own or owned the following vehicles:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Vehicle Identification Number (V.I.N.)</u>
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[INSERT VEHICLE INFORMATION]

The records obtained by the government indicate that the aforementioned vehicle had at least [HIGH MILEAGE] on the odometer on [DATE] (see enclosed documents).

If you purchased this vehicle without knowledge that the odometer had been altered, you may be entitled to certain legal remedies. The Federal odometer law, Title 49, United States Code, sections 32701-32711 (formerly the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act, Title 15, United States Code, sections 1981-1991) prohibits the disconnection, resetting, or alteration of a motor vehicle's odometer with intent to change the number of miles indicated thereon. The law requires that a written disclosure of the mileage registered on an odometer be provided by the seller to the purchaser at the time ownership of a vehicle is transferred. If the odometer mileage is incorrect, the Act requires a statement to that effect to be furnished in

written form to the buyer.

Violations of any of the above requirements may subject the violator to civil liability if it is determined that the violator's actions were intended to defraud the purchaser. The law makes available to the buyer a remedy in the amount of \$1,500 or treble damages, whichever is greater, together with attorney's fees. To obtain this remedy, 49 U.S.C. § 32710 permits the buyer to bring a civil action in State or Federal court. You may do this by contacting your own attorney or the State Attorney General. Your State Attorney General has the authority under the federal law to bring an action on your behalf and can also advise you regarding applicable state laws. The Federal Government has the authority to bring actions for civil and criminal penalties; however, it cannot bring actions on behalf of consumers. We strongly recommend that you consult your own private attorney to determine your legal rights and remedies in this matter. You will find enclosed a document titled "Odometer Fraud - Civil Remedies for Victims" which may assist you.

In addition, you should be aware that should you sell this vehicle without notifying the purchaser that the odometer does not reflect the actual mileage, you may incur liability. We hope this information will be of use to you.

Sincerely,

[NAME]
[TITLE]
[ADDRESS]

Enclosures:
Odometer Fraud - Civil Remedies for Victims
Supporting Documentation

Odometer Fraud
Civil Remedies
for Victims

49 U.S.C. §§ 32701-32711 (Formerly 15 U.S.C. §§ 1981-1991),
49 C.F.R., Sections 580.1-580.6 - Odometer Requirements

Violations -

Resetting or altering odometer with intent to change mileage.

Making false odometer disclosure statement.

Failure to provide buyer complete odometer disclosure statement.

In acquiring vehicle for resale, failure to obtain complete odometer disclosure statement from seller.

Conspiring to violate any of the Federal odometer statutes.

Civil Recovery -

\$1,500 or,

treble damages, whichever is greater, plus

reasonable attorney's fees.

Assessment of Actual Damages - Combination of:

Value of vehicle with fraudulent mileage minus value of vehicle with actual mileage.

Lessened resale value of vehicle with altered odometer.

Increased finance charges on fraudulently inflated value.

Increased insurance costs of fraudulently inflated value.